"According to Lloyd (pp. 46-47): 'The method of catching the climbing opossum. . . is, notwithstanding the imminent danger which attends it, an extremely interesting sight to mere bystanders. The thrilling exclamation of "Wah! Wah! Wah!" denoting that traces had been discovered of the cat-taloned animal having very recently ascended the tree, soon brought other natives to the spot: whereupon--the most cunning in such matters deciding in council that the impressions made on the smooth bark were of the preceding night--one of the boldest and most agile of the hunters prepared to ascend the formidable-looking blue gum. The flint tomahawk and the strong hay-band supplied the want of a ladder. . . . The strong wire-grass rope, made into close three-strand plait, being passed round the tree and tied in a loop sufficiently large, the native placed himself within it; then with his tomahawk he made a slightly roughed score in the bark, into which, inserting his muscular great toe only, he steadily and unerringly raised himself upright. The band was then dexterously jerked higher up the trunk; another score made and so on, until he had succeeded in reaching the required height. The scores or steps were never less than three feet and a half apart. Having scaled the tree, the next feat was to follow the tracks of the opossum along some bare projecting branch; upon which the native walked upright and confident, as if he also resided amidst the boughs of towering gums. The snug domicile of the opossum being discovered, the ticklish operation came of thrusting

in the bare arm into the hollowed branch, pulling him out by the tail, and tossing him from the dizzy height into the midst of the eager hunters who were assembled round the tree. Frequently, [114] however, the wary little animal... would retreat from its nest, and perching itself... at the extreme end of the branch, would remain till fairly shaken off by its ruthless pursuer.' 'When the opossum was got out of a hole in the tree, they would knock its head against the tree and throw it down. Those below would catch it up if not dead' (Thirkell). Bass, although he did not see an opossum hunted, considered that the trees were climbed by means of the rope, 'for once, at the foot of a notched tree, about eight feet of a two inch rope made of grass was found with a knot in it, near which it appeared to have broken' (Collins, p. 169). He also had seen notched trees (ibid, p. 188). Tasman and his crew, in 1642, had also seen these notches, and reported them to be five feet apart (Gell, II. pp. 323-325)."

1: Roth--122-123 (No date) 1890 Tasmanians
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"La Billardière describes a curious structure of another [123] sort (ch. v. pp. 178-179): 'We found on the skirts of the forest a fence constructed by the natives against the winds of the bay. It consisted of strips of the bark of the Eucalyptus resinifera, interwoven between stakes fixed perpendicularly into the ground, forming an arch, of about the third of the circumference of a circle, nine feet in length and three in height, with its convex side turned towards the bay.... We found another of the fences above described on the skirt of the forest. It was of the same construction and height as the former, but twice as long.'"